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INFO RHMFIUU/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC
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RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0086
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0158
RUEHC/USAID WASHDC 0035
RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 0030
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0030
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI
RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY 0300
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
RUEHLG/AMEMBASSY LILONGWE 0027
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI 0030
RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 0030
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0030
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RUEHOR/AMEMBASSY GABORONE 0030
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RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
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RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE 0030
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RUEHWD/AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 HANOI 001400

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE PASS TO OGAC AMBASSADOR GOOSBY, MMALONEY-KITTS, JHOLLOWAY
AMEMBASSIES FOR TO PEPFAR COORDINATORS, ESTH, CDC DIRECTORS, AID HEALTH OFFICERS, AND HEALTH ATTACHES
HHS/OSSI/DSI PASS TO HHS/OGHA JMONAHAN, MABDOO, ACUMMINGS, CMCLEAN
NIH/FIC RGLASS, SAMHSA WCLARK, RLUBRAN, AND FDA LVALDEZ, BCOREY
USAID FOR ANE CJENNINGS, AND GH GSTEELE, OHA RCLAY
BANGKOK FOR USAID/RDM/A OCARDUNER, MSATIN
CDC FOR COGH SBLOUT, AND GAP DBIRX, RJSIMONDS, JTAPERO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [SNAR](#) [KHIV](#) [VM](#)

SUBJECT: (SBU) Vietnam's seventh PEPFAR-supported Methadone Clinic
Opens in Hanoi

REF: A. HANOI 578, 406 (2008), 1082 (2007); B. HANOI 1374

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

REF: A. Hanoi 578, Hanoi 406 (2008), Hanoi 1082 (2007); B. Hanoi
1374

[1](#)1. (U) Summary. The Ministry of Health of Vietnam (MOH) in conjunction with the Hanoi Peoples Committee opened a medication-assisted therapy (MAT) "Methadone Clinic" in Hanoi on World AIDS Day. U.S.-led innovations, such as the provision of MAT (including treatment with methadone which is currently serving 1500 patients), are regarded by the government and the international community as state-of-the-art prevention modalities. End Summary

[1](#)2. (U) The HIV situation in Vietnam is distinctive because the behaviors of those who inject drugs drive transmission, which feeds spread to two other most-at-risk populations: sex workers and men who have sex with men (REF A). Due to a high degree of stigma and discrimination, these hard-to-reach populations require well planned and executed prevention-oriented programs. An estimated 60,000 persons who inject drugs are involuntarily detained in over 100 residential rehabilitation centers, with HIV infection rates estimated at over 60 percent in some centers. Addressing the health and social needs of this population remains essential for effective HIV/AIDS prevention in Vietnam. After the PEPFAR Vietnam team expended tremendous diplomatic effort and providing substantial technical assistance to get MOH to operate one center, which houses 400 injecting drug users, for the last two years. MOH is poised to expand the MAT approach to 24 centers in southern Vietnam. PEPFAR supports a comprehensive package of care, in

collaboration with partners.

13. (U) In Vietnam, most view addiction as a moral issue. Our PEPFAR-supported work concentrates on reducing stigma and discrimination through promotion of the understanding that drug addiction is a medical condition. The MAT clinic program is the first community-based model drug addiction treatment program in Vietnam. Successful treatment not only helps the individual with the addiction, but enables family and the community to better support the person addicted, while reducing crime. This integrated treatment approach was approved by the Vice Minister of Health, Dr.

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Trinh Quan Huan, on December 12, 2008.

Seventh Methadone Clinic Opens, First in Hanoi

14. (SBU) On December 1, 2009 the MOH's Minister of Health Nguyen Quoc Trieu officially opened Vietnam's seventh "methadone clinic," and the first one in Hanoi. This marks the expansion of the MAT program, using the approved integrated approach to prevention, care, and treatment. Integration and getting ministries to work together is a major challenge in Vietnam. The clinic is located within the Tu Liem district's Preventive Medicine Center and integrates HIV care and treatment, primary care services, and methadone in one location. This integrated program is run according to current international standards of practice. Tu Liem methadone clinic is one of six clinics to be opened in Hanoi and will operate seven days a week, including holidays, for dispensing methadone. Counseling and integrated services will be available Monday through Friday.

15. (U) For the past year, Hai Phong Province and Ho Chi Minh City have provided MAT as part of a program of comprehensive services for persons who inject drugs. These services have been integrated into the health system of six district locations. Because the HIV epidemic in Vietnam is driven primarily through injection drug use, other areas of an individual's life (e.g., medical, emotional, family and social relations, and employment) are affected, so additional services need to be available. These clinic services include counseling, psychosocial support, medical care and treatment (e.g., for HIV, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases), including antiretroviral therapy, requiring cooperation among different service providers. MAT, using methadone, works well with peer support groups and with other existing prevention, care, and treatment services.

16. (U) Comment: Although expansion of MAT has been gradual, requiring persistent technical efforts, backed by vigorous diplomatic work, we may be at a tipping point, as indicated by recent signs of increased political commitment from Deputy Prime Minister Truong Vinh Trong, Chairman of the National Committee of HIV, Drugs and Prostitution Prevention and Control (REF B). Post anticipates that being able to directly integrate needle and syringe distribution and exchange (currently done by partners

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without USG funding) into our prevention activities will increase program effectiveness. End Comment.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED
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